

WILL SEIZE HOUSES

FOR SHIP WORKERS

Shipping Board Also Likely to
Commandeer Some
Trolley Lines.

BILL SIGNED BY WILSON

American Merchant Marine

Curved Vessels in Last Half of 1917.

WASHINGTON, March 1.—Before proceeding with construction of housing for shipyard workers the Shipping Board, it was announced to-night, will commence a study of available empty hotels, warehouses and other buildings in order to determine where ships are being built. In this way it is expected to supply accommodations for thousands of workmen.

Under a 90-day bill, signed into law to-day by President Wilson, authorized the board to commandeer not only houses and land but transportation as well. It is entirely likely that land on which houses are being built will be commandeered in most instances to prevent speculative prices.

The Shipping Board already has made plans for buying facilities of ship plants and is ready to take whatever is available immediately. Compensation will be determined by the Emergency Fleet Corporation's division of public service under J. Rogers Flannery.

In commandeering houses the board will go into the suburbs and to summer resorts where many houses and hotels are available. It is expected that many available for accommodating ship workers have not been used heretofore because the owners have asked exorbitant

House commandeered will be held until the end of the war and then will be turned back to their owners or sold. The boats will either be rented or sold to shipyard workers.

It is thought probable that new electric railway systems leading from cities to shipyard areas may be taken over and some of the boats may be taken over and some may be taken for the purpose of establishing ferry lines to yards.

The growing American merchant marine is expected to be increasing very rapidly in the last six months of 1917. Government officials said to-day, or an average of more than two a day.

Many of the new ships being built in the United States, having been under construction for foreign orders and taken over by the American Government.

Other new ships may be made in the large steamships like the *Vaterland*, which were commandeered by the navy.

are not included in the total of 250.

Many of the new ships are expected that more than 1,000,000 tons of shipping were added to the American merchant marine in 1917.

SHIPPING LACK GROWS ACUTE

Construction Indicated for the Year Will Not Be Sufficient.

Chicago, March 1.—Figures showing an acute shortage of shipping tonnage have been compiled by the United States Coast Guard of the National Patriotic Societies. According to these figures the present shortage is 7,435,894 tons gross, almost 1,500 vessels of 5,000 gross tons each. The total tonnage usable by the United States and its allies to-day is 4,135,891 gross tons less than in the fall of 1917. These figures take account of tonnage built to replace submarine losses.

It was estimated that to this shortage must be added 2,000,000 tons as the minimum necessary for the United States to transport and maintain 1,000,000 men in the war zone. Estimates

were that 2,000,000 tons will be the maximum of building to be expected from Great Britain in 1918, and from the United States 3,000,000 tons. This gives a probable additional tonnage of 5,000,000 tons. It was pointed out, however, that the destruction of vessels during the first year of unrestricted submarine warfare was between 6,000,000 and 7,000,000 tons.

The funeral of Cadet Franklin F. Fairchild, Representative of the Twenty-fourth New York district, was held at 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon at the residence of his father, John Fairchild, at Fort Worth, Tex., at which the cadet was killed during a flight February 23, a military escort from Fort Worth, Texas, and a defense team attended the services.

Cadet Fairchild was born Eureka, N. D., 1893. He was graduated from the University of Minnesota, St. Paul, in 1915, and from Yale in the class of '17. After a racing course at Uxbridge he chose aviation branch, and was graduated from the United States Army flying school at Fort Worth, Tex., in January of this year. Then he went to Fort Worth, where he celebrated his twenty-third birthday by making his first solo flight.

The young man's mother died when he was 7 years of age, and he was the constant companion of his father. Together they traveled all over the world, to Alaska and Europe. They made more than 1,000 miles on one tour with a moose on the Sierras.

He praised the work of his men at sea and referred to the late capture of German castle as the crack shot of the Battle of Jutland. He also said he was in charge of the aerial work.

BRITISH LABOR MEN COMING

Two Members of Mission Will Give Here March 14.

W. A. Appleton and Joshua Burns were two of the four men comprising the British Labor Mission to America from New York city Thursday, March 14, and remain here until about March 17. The day of their arrival they addressed a meeting of the Central Union of British Workers, which met at the Hotel Marlborough-Blenheim, New York city, Thursday, March 15; they will address the General Federation of United Englishmen Saturday afternoon, March 16; they will be present at the National Civic League banquet at the Waldorf-Astoria hotel Sunday morning, March 17.

Mr. Appleton, who is secretary of the General Federation of British Workers' Clubs, and Mr. Burns, who is secretary of the Geographical Union No. 2, Sunday, March 17. Mr. Butterworth at the same time will address a mass meeting in Madison Square Garden under the auspices of the Clean Alliance for Labor and Democracy.

TWELVE DIE IN BORDER FIGHT
American Cavalry Battle Mexican
Bandits Near Marfa.

MARFA, TEX., March 1.—Twelve Mexicans were killed and several were wounded late today when a band of thirty Mexicans fired on an American cavalry detachment in command of Kramers' Troop.

SGT. PABO, TEX., March 1.—Mex. snipers fired across the Rio Grande at Lieut. H. E. Walden, Lieut. J. Neyland and Joe Mullins, Texas Rangers, to-night. A few infernal contraptions were thrown at the Americans. One changed. As far as we could hear, no one was wounded.